IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to excipients, particularly disintegrants, that contain low residual solvent (< 3000 ppm). The excipients are preferably polysaccharide products, which include, but are not limited to, starch, amylose, amylopectin, gelatin, starch 1500, sodium starch glycolate, cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), carboxymethyl-cellulose (CMC), croscarmellose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC), and chitosan. The most favorable excipient is sodium starch glycolate. The low-residual-solvent excipient is further characterized by its water absorbing property by adding a water-absorbing radical, such as a ($-RCOO^-A^+$) (wherein A^+ is Na^+ or K^+; wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms), to the carbinol groups ($-CH_2OH$) of the excipients to form a methoxy alkylcarboxyl ($-CH_2-O-RCOO^-A^+$) group in the excipient so as to improve the water absorbing property of the excipients which facilitates the replacement of residual solvent with water. The present invention also relates to a method for reducing residual solvent in excipients. The method includes removing residual solvent from the excipients by way of adding a solvent/water solution containing: (1) about 75-95% (v/v) isopropanol and about 5-25% water (v/v); (2) about 65-95% acetone and about 5-35% water; and (3) about 60-85% methanol and about 15-40% water.--

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The water absorbing property of the low-residual-solvent excipients is obtained by linking a water absorbing radical, such as a ($-RCOO^-A^+$) (wherein A^+ is Na^+ or K^+; wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms), to the carbinol groups ($-CH_2OH$) of the excipients to form a methoxy alkylcarboxyl ($-CH_2-O-RCOO^-A^+$) group in the excipients. Hereinafter, R is referred to as lower alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms and A^+ is referred to as Na^+ or K^+. Preferably, R is a straight chain lower alkyl group. The most preferred water absorbing radical is an acetate sodium radical ($-CH_2COO^-Na^+$).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The classification data shown in Table 2 indicates that methanol is classified as class 2 solvent which is more biohazard than ethanol , a class 3 solvent. That is also the reason why ethanol has a tolerable level of (< 5000 ppm), which is higher than that of methanol (< 3000 ppm). Thus, the tolerable residual concentration for ethanol is higher than that of methanol.

Please replace the diagram on page 10 with the following amended diagram: